

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended in response to the examiner's comments.

The rejection of claims 3, 4, 6 and 54 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph on the grounds that the specification is not enabling is respectfully traversed.

The examiner has indicated in paragraph 5 of the Office Action of 7/02/02, that Fig. 8 prevents one skilled in the art from making the inventions defined by these claims because "the first flow starts from node A and ends at node I, the second flow starts from node I and ends at node A, the third flow starts from node I and ends at node B, and the fourth flow starts from node B and ends at node I; thus first source end and destination end are on the same node B. Thus, not all ends are reside on the same node as claimed."

Applicants point that Fig. 8 and other figures are schematic, as is conventional in patent drawings and the labels A, B, I, etc. can be applied to logic functions that are carried out on the same or different physical machines.

The figures indicate a general case of the application of the invention, which may be applied to a number of different configurations of logic functions and physical machines. The claims in question deal with a particular embodiment, in which the source flow end points are all on the same hardware device.

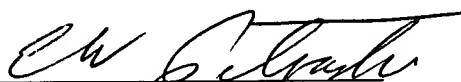
One of the inventors has executed the enclosed declaration that establishes that it is conventional practice in the art to place two or more of the points on a chain similar to that shown in Fig. 8 on the same node (i.e. the same hardware device).

Since workers in the field routinely construct configurations in which two or more (including all) of the end points are on the same node, there can be no basis for an enablement rejection on the application of the present invention to such a configuration.

Thus, the rejected claims 3, 4, 6 and 54 point out a particular configuration of the broader claims, using conventional techniques for connecting the various points in the chain illustrated in the figure.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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